

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9559

INFO AMCONGEN BELIZE

AMEMBSSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 0062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH

SUBJ: FONMIN COMMENTS ON FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) REPORTS OF BELIZEAN PREMIER PRICE'S TRIP TO LONDON PROMPTED LOCAL NEWSMEN TO QUERY FONMIN MOLINA JANUARY 5 ABOUT FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. FONMIN QUOTED SAYING "TALKS OVER THE BELIZE ISSUE COULD BE RESUMED IN THE COMING MONTHS, BUT FOR THIS(TO TAKE PLACE), EVEN THOUGH IT WAS NOT AN EXPRESS CONTION DURING THE TALKS WHICH WERE HELD WITH BRITISH REPRESENTATIVES IN GUATEMALA, GREAT BRITAIN SHOULD WITHDRAW THE TROOPS IT HAS GARRISONED IN BELIZE, (WHICH) WERE RECENTLY RELIEVED BY FRESH TROOPS. THE ENGLISH REPRESENTATIVES OFFERED THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO ACHIEVE THIS, BUT EVIDENTLY THEIR EFFORTS HAVE NOT ACHIEVED RESULTS, AND THE TROOPS REMAIN IN THAT GUATEMALAN TERRITORY; THEREFORE WE ARE WAITING."

2. PRESS JANUARY 6 CARRIES AFP STORY FROM LONDON ON
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BEGINNING OF PRICE'S CONSULTATIONS. ONE PORTION OF STORY,

AFTER DESCRIBING BRITISH REINFORCEMENTS IN BELIZE, SAYS, "IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BRITISH GOVERNMENT MIGHT REMOVE A PART OF THESE TROOPS BEFORE OR DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GUATEMALA, IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE ITS GOOD WILL, OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE. THE EXPERTS POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THAT TIME(WHEN REINFORCEMENTS WERE SENT IN) THERE HAVE BEEN NO BORDER INCIDENTS..." (END UNCLASSIFIED)

3. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) BRITISH CONSUL MCQUILLAN TOLD EMBOFFS JANUARY 5 HE HAD NO INDICATION HMG WAS GIVING ANY CONSIDERATION TO EVEN PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL OF REINFORCEMENTS FROM BELIZE. (NEVERTHELESS, SUCH CONSIDERATION MAY BE UNDERWAY IF AFP REPORT OF FONOFF "OBSERVERS" VIEW IS ACCURATE.) NOR HAD HE RECEIVED ANY PROPOSALS TO CONVEY TO GOG RE STARTING DATE OR PLACE FOR RESUMED TALKS. WHEN EMBOFFS SAID FOREIGN MINISTER'S REMARKS INDICATE GOG WILL NOT AGREE TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL SOME GESTURE IN DIRECTION OF LESSENING BRITISH MILITARY PRESENCE IN BELIZE IS MADE, MCQUILLAN AGREED. HE POINTED OUT HE HAS ALWAYS FELT THAT GOT'S FIRST PREFERENCE IS NO RESOLUTION OF BELIZE PROBLEM, NO CHANGE IN STATUS QUO ON GROUNDS THIS IS LEAST OF EVILS. WE AGREED THIS MAY BE GOG PREFERENCE, BUT WE HAD IMPRESSION STATUS QUO NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE TO UK. MCQUILLAN (PLEASEPROTECT) SAID HOWEVER MUCH HMG MIGHT DESIRE RESOLVE BELIZE ISSUE, GOG HAD BRITIAN OVER A BARREL. UNILATERAL RESOLUTION WOULD REQUIRE A DEFENSE GUARANTEE AND MCQUILLAN DOES NOT BELIEVE HMG IS PREPARED TO GIVE ONE.

4. MCQUILLAN NOTED THAT GOG HAD NOT INITIATED THE CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGE OF MILITARY INFORMATION IN WHICH IT HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST DURING ROWLANDS VISIT. HE HAD INFORMED GUATEMALAN FONOFF OF ROUTINE ROTATION OF SOME BRITISH UNITS IN BELIZE, TO WHICH MOLINA STATMENT REFERRED, AND HAD ASKED WHETHER GOG WISHED EXCHANGE INFORMATION OF THIS KIND. GUATEMALAN FONOFF OFFICIAL SAID IT WAS A GOOD IDEA BUT MCQUILLAN HAD HEARD NOTHING FURTHER.

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